(c) whether any Human Rights delegation, foreign or Indian was permitted to visit the valley during the above period; and if so, the observations and suggestions made by them; and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Information is awaited from the State Govenment of Jammu and Kashmir.

Release of Militants by J & K

61. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of militants under detention in Kashmir have been released, with a view to reviving conditions congenial to holding of Assembly and Parliamentary (Lok Sabha) elections in that state;

(b) if so, the details of the militants, especially their leaders who have been so released; and

(c) the norms and procedure followed in this regard and the conditions for their release ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have constituted a State level Screening Committee to review the cases of the arrested persons and detenus, and make suitable recommendations depending upon the circumstances of each case. In 1992 (upto 15-5-92) 2066 cases were screened by the Screeing Committee and 776 persons were recommended for release. Recently five prominent persons namely, S/Shri Abdul Gani Loni Qazi Nissar Ahmed, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat and Maulvi Mohd. Abbas Ansari, having affiliations to political organisations of J & K were also released.

Steps to Curb Militancy in J&K

62. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for escalation in terrorist activities in J&K;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government during the last three months to curb militancy and to bring about peace in Kashmir Valley, and with what success so far; and

(c) to what extent the situation has since become conducive to restoration of democratic Government in the State and holding of elections to the Legislative Assembly and to the Lok Sabha in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The situation in Jammu & Kashmir, though difficult, has shown a qualitative change for the better. There are visible signs of improvement which warrant cautious optimism. A growing public condemnation of the mindless violence, being perpetrated by the terrorists, has been in evidence. Despite fear of the gun and reprisal from terrorists, a dozen anti-militant demonstrations were held in the Valley during the last two months. Heightened inter-gang clashes resulting in Civilian casualities, and repeated calls for harbal acausing inconvenience to the local people have roused popular indignation.

The security forces have had notable successes in their action against militants. Availability of ground intelligence and tactical information has increased. With

improvement in the law and order situation, industrial and business activities have picked up and the functioning of educational institutions has improved. The programmes launched by security forces of providing civic services and medical aid in border areas have earned the goodwill and confidence of the people. There is increased realisation that gun culture is counter-productive. Greater interest is being taken by the people in encouraging surrenders of militants.

The Government is keen to hold elections as soon as favourable conditions for a fair and free election are created. No definite time-frame can, however, be set for elections at this stage.

Influx of Bangladeshi Nationals

63. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly three lakh Bangladeshi nationals are estimated to have illegally settled in Delhi as re-reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 31st May, 1992;

(b) whether in view of the statement by the Bangladesh Prime Minister during her recent visit denying large-scale influx of Bangladeshi nationals into India, Government have collected State and Union Territory-wise figures of influx of Bangladeshi immiragnts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangements since made and being made for their return to their home land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) There are reports of influx of Bangladeshi nationals in Delhi and other parts of the country. Since most of Bangladeshi nationals enter surreptitiously and go under ground no precise figures are available as to how many such persons are living in India. Various measures have been taken to tackle the problem including intensification of patrolling by BSF and other agencies. As and when infiltrators are intercepted, they are pushed back to Bangladesh. Border roads are being constructed for better communications. Mobile Task Force have been constituted for detection of infiltrators. Moreover, the State Governments have standing instructions to expel/push back Bangladeshi infiltrators as soon as they are detected. The State Governments have also powers to prosecute them under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Increase in Deaths Under Police Custody

64. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report, captioned "Police custody deaths are on the increase" which appeared in the Hindu of the 9th June, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of the custody deaths in different States and Union Territories during the years 1989, 1990, 1991 and so far in 1992; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken to curb and prevent custody deaths effectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' including 'Crimes' being State subjects, it is for the State Governments to deal with cases of deaths in police custody. Information on this is not separately compiled and monitored by Central agencies. The Government of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that police personnel behave in a humane manner, that alleged